



TJAG and RCSM SENDS

A Message from The Judge Advocate General
and the Regimental Command Sergeant Major



Military Justice Pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022

The New Year ushers in opportunity. As many of you know, just before the new year, the President signed into law the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022* (NDAA FY22). This law contains significant reforms to military justice, including most notably the creation of a new Special Trial Counsel with exclusive disposition authority for covered offenses. Undoubtedly, our Corps will meet the requirements of the revised military justice system. Although many of the changes are not effective until two years from enactment—that being 27 December 2023—our Corps is resolved to fully supporting successful implementation of the changes.

Anticipating such reforms, we established a dedicated Operational Planning Team (OPT MJ Next) in the early fall to explore possible courses of action. The passage of the NDAA FY22 now provides focus and clarity for us to look holistically at the directed changes. Even with a two-year implementation timeline, OPT MJ Next has a challenge ahead as it works a quick timeline to answer interim data calls to inform Congress and receives Office of the Secretary of Defense guidance. The OPT is developing courses of action that comprehensively examine the role of all stakeholders to inform further policy decisions. This important work will not impact this summer's assignment rotations.

While military justice is the focus of the NDAA FY22 revisions, we are looking across our entire practice for opportunities to innovate and improve. We remain committed to providing premier, professional legal services in all six core legal competencies. Our clients—whether the Army or individual Soldiers and Family members—still count on us to be the trusted professionals we have always been. Our Corps' four constants provide direction as we assist the Army in implementing necessary changes.

We encourage you to stay informed: read the text of the NDAA FY22, remain engaged with your legal technical channel, and recognize that change is certain. As decisions are made and we gain better understanding of how the future will look, we will keep you informed. In this period of transition, we count on your continued professionalism, expertise, and optimism. Our Army's military justice practice is critical to the good order and discipline of the force and committed to protecting the rights of Soldiers.

In looking at the past 50 years, change—including transformational change—is a recurring aspect of military justice. Our Corps' ability to successfully adapt and execute such change has been the one constant. Even through change, justice will prevail; the JAG Corps will excel. Continue to perform as trusted professionals as we transform and succeed together. And as always, *we'll meet you on the high ground!*

STUART W. RISCH
Lieutenant General, USA
The Judge Advocate General

MICHAEL J. BOSTIC
Command Sergeant Major, USA
Regimental Command Sergeant Major